(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHINTA MOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following major projects have been identified to be set up in the Public and Cooperative Sector during the 8th Plan;

(i) Expansion of Vijaipur Plant of National Fertilizers Ltd.

(ii) Expansion of Aonla Plant of IFFCO.

(iii) A grass-root ammonia/urea plant by KRIBHCO on the HBJ pipeline.

(iv) Expansion of Hazira plant of KRIBHCO.

(v) Expansion of Thal plant of RCF.

The above proposals would require the clearance of the Planning Commission.

[English]

Development of Coir Industry in Kerala

966. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken for the development of coir industry in Kerala; and

(b) the welfare measures proposed for coir workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): (a) The Coir Board, with the assistance of the Central Government, has been implementing various programmes for the development of coir industry in Kerala. Some of the programmes are:-

(i) Centrally sponsored scheme for co-operativisation in coir industry.

(ii) Rebate scheme for market development.

(iii) Foreign publicity and market promotion programmes.

(iv) Construction of pucca worksheds.

(v) Research and Development programmes for improving productivity and introduction of modified equipments.

(vi) Collection of statistics and conducting of surveys etc.

(b) Welfare of coir workers has been getting due attention of the Government. A sum of Rs. 50 lakhs has been provided during the current year's Budget for that purpose.

Purchase of Free Sale Sugar

967. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether sugar mills in Karnataka have started rejecting the tenders for purchase of free sale sugar in weekly auctions;

(b) if so, the main reasons for taking such a decisions